

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-11 are pending. Applicants respectfully request a Suspension of Action for three (3) months in order further consider the issues raised in the Advisory Action dated March 31, 2009.

Claims 1, 4-8 and 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi et al (US 6, 472, 019 B1) in view of Di Giaimo (US 3, 496, 134).

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaguchi et al in view of Di Giaimo and further in view of Snyder (US 3,617,188).

Applicants respond as follows.

Present claim 1 relates to an aqueous water- and oil-repellent dispersion comprising:

(I) a copolymer comprising a polymerizable compound having a perfluoroalkyl or perfluoroalkenyl group and an acrylate group, methacrylate group or alpha-substituted acrylate group, a chlorine-containing polymerizable compound, and, optionally present, another copolymerizable compound copolymerizable with the foregoing monomers, and

(II) a hydrochloric acid-trapping compound which is a combination of (a) at least one epoxy compound selected from the group consisting of an epoxidized vegetable oil and an epoxidized fatty acid ester with (b) at least one weakly basic compound.

The test data presented in the 37 C.F.R. §1.132 Declaration of Enomoto submitted on October 31, 2008 demonstrates that the combination of an epoxy compound and at least one weakly basic compound as an HCl trapping compound provides superior properties, as explained in the Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 filed March 23, 2009.


Further, the test data is commensurate in scope with the invention as claimed, as explained in the Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 filed March 23, 2009.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that (1) the Rule 132 Declaration by Mr. Enomoto submitted on October 31, 2008 demonstrates that the use of a combination of epoxy compound and at least one weakly basic compound as an HCl trapping compound provides superior properties; and (2) the Inventive Examples 1-10 and the test results as set forth in Table 1 at page 9 of the Declaration are representative of the scope of the present claims.

Accordingly, the present invention is not obvious over Yamaguchi et al in view of Di Giaimo, and withdrawal of the foregoing § 103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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